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AUTHOR Stine, Vance
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ABSTRACT

This study examined selected characteristics of 1,682 students who withdrew from Los Angeles City College during the spring semesters of 1973, 1974, 1975, and 1976, and compared them to the characteristics of the spring 1976 total day student population. About 68% of the withdrawees were of non-Caucasian background, compared with a non-Caucasian student body of about 79%, and 55% of the withdrawees were female, while the student body was 50% female. Of spring 1976 withdrawees, 47% had not been employed during the semester compared with a student body only one-third of which was unemployed, but 28% of the withdrawees were employed full time. About 36% of the spring 1976 withdrawees indicated they planned to transfer to a four-year college, 30% did not intend to transfer and 34% were not sure; corresponding figures for the total student body were 69%, 11% and 19%, respectively. Almost half of the withdrawees indicated plans to return to college. Full-time employment, personal reasons, and transfer, in that order, were the most frequently cited reasons for withdrawal in each year. Nine tables of data display the demographic characteristics of withdrawees. (Author/JDS)

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LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

"SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS WHO WITHDREW FROM L.A.C.C. SPRING 1976, SPRING 1975, SPRING 1974, AND SPRING 1973"

Research Study #77-9

Vance Stine
Research Office
July, 1977

JC 770 320

"SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS WHO WITHDREW FROM
L.A.C.C. SPRING 1976, SPRING 1975, SPRING 1974, AND SPRING 1973"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

To identify reasons for students' withdrawing from college before the end of a semester and tc compare certain characteristics of withdrawing students (e.g., sex, ethnic background, age, employment) with those of the entire student body.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

Students (day) withdrawing from the college are required to obtain the signature of a counselor before official withdrawal is granted. This exit interview permits the counselor to make sure the student understands the effects of his withdrawal and procedures for returning to the college at a later date. A prepared form (copy appended) is completed by the student as part of this exit interview. Analysis of these completed instruments constitutes the procedure for this study.

FINDINGS

208 students completed withdrawal forms during the Spring 1976 semester, compared with 354 for Spring 1975, 499 for Spring 1974, and 621 for Spring 1973.

Table 1 shows the distribution of these students according to sex and ethnic background. Tables 1a and 1b permit comparison of these distributions for the respective years and with the total college student body.

Tables 2 through 8a summarize responses to questions asked on the exit interview form, subanalyzed by sex and ethnic background, and compared (where information is available) with the entire student body. In Tables 8, 8a, and 9a information was included about withdrawees during the Spring

FINDINGS (continued)

1973 semester (from Research Study #76-2).

Table 9 presents in rank order, for the total and each subgroup, the stated reasons for withdrawal for Spring 1976. Table 9a presents a comparison of the rank orders for Spring 1976, Spring 1975, Spring 1974, and Spring 1973.

Figures indicating most recent available statistics for all day students are taken from Research Studies #76-2 and #77-4.

TABLE 1 - Number of Withdrawals from LACC by Sex and Ethnic Background, Spring, 1976, Spring 1975, Spring 1974, and Spring 1973

	Spring 1976			Spring 1975			Spring 1974			Spring 1973		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Black	47	50	97	48	57	105	71	68	139	68	97	165
Caucasian	41	59	100	63	64	127	87	98	185	126	121	247
Mex-American	9	16	25	12	13	25	22	17	39	21	20	41
Oriental	24	25	49	16	33	49	35	37	72	54	39	93
Other	17	20	37	24	34	48	30	34	64	40	35	75
TOTAL	138	170	308	163	191	354	245	254	499	309	312	621

Table 1a - Ethnic Distribution (in percents)

	Spring 1976			Spring 1975			Spring 1974			Spring 1973			All LACC*
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	1976
Black	34.1	29.4	31.8	29.5	29.9	29.7	29.0	26.8	27.9	22.0	31.1	26.6	36.9
Caucasian	29.7	34.7	32.2	38.7	35.8	35.8	35.5	38.6	37.1	40.8	38.8	39.8	21.4
Mex-American	6.5	9.4	8.0	7.4	6.8	7.0	9.0	6.7	7.8	6.8	6.4	6.6	18.7
Oriental	17.4	14.7	16.0	9.8	17.3	12.6	14.3	14.6	14.4	17.5	12.5	15.0	18.3
Other	12.3	11.8	12.0	14.7	12.6	13.6	12.2	13.4	12.8	12.9	11.2	12.1	4.3
TOTAL NUMBER	138	170	308	163	191	354	245	254	499	309	3.12	621	

TABLE 1b - Sex Distribution (in percents)

Male	1976	1975	1974	1973	ALL LACC*
Male	44.8	46.0	49.1	49.8	49.7
Female	55.2	54.0	50.9	50.2	50.3

* See Research Study #77-4

TABLE 2 - Semester at L.A.C.C. (in percents)

	1st Semester	2nd Semester	3rd Semester	4th Semester	5th Semester or more	Total Respondents
Males	34.4	29.8	12.2	6.9	16.8	131
Females	33.5	25.7	15.0	12.0	13.8	167
Black	40.2	21.7	12.0	14.1	12.0	92
Caucasian	26.6	31.9	13.8	8.5	19.1	94
Mex-American	43.5	34.8	4.3	4.3	13.0	23
Oriental	22.9	29.2	20.8	14.6	12.5	48
Other	25.0	31.3	18.8	3.1	21.8	32
All 1976	33.9	27.5	13.8	9.7	15.1	298
All 1975	31.2	31.9	16.4	8.5	12.0	317
All 1974	33.3	30.7	13.6	9.9	12.3	463
All 1973	27.4	31.1	19.4	11.7	15.3	554

TABLE 3 - Employment During Semester (in percents)

	Not Employed	1/4 time	1/2 time	3/4 time	Full-time	Total Respondents
Males	41.2	10.5	15.8	9.2	64.5	131
Females	51.5	9.8	8.6	7.4	20.8	163
Blacks	52.2	5.6	7.8	4.4	30.0	90
Caucasian	47.4	10.3	7.2	7.2	26.8	97
Mexican-American	50.0	8.3	8.3	8.3	25.0	24
Oriental	39.1	8.7	13.0	6.5	32.6	46
Other	40.5	8.1	10.8	8.1	27.0	37
All 1976	46.9	8.2	8.8	6.5	28.2	294
All 1975	31.2	31.9	16.4	8.5	12.0	317
All 1974	33.3	30.7	13.6	9.9	13.3	463
All 1973	27.4	31.1	19.4	11.7	15.3	554

NOTE: These do not total to 100 because some students responded yes to employment but neglected to state the amount of time.

TABLE 4 - Transfer Plans (in percents)

	Yes	No	Not sure	Total Respondents
Males	36.1	30.3	33.6	122
Females	42.9	31.3	25.9	147
Black	36.9	34.5	28.6	84
Caucasian	38.0	31.0	31.0	87
Mex-American	20.8	50.0	29.2	24
Oriental	52.5	15.0	32.5	40
Other	50.0	26.5	23.5	34
All 1976	39.8	30.8	29.4	269
All 1975	40.8	26.7	32.6	304
All 1974	39.8	26.1	34.1	437
All 1973	42.8	25.4	31.9	535

TABLE 5 - Approximate GPA at LACC (in percents)

	A	B	C	D	F	Total Respondents
Males	11.9	42.6	41.6	4.0	0.0	101
Females	11.5	59.0	28.7	0.8	0.0	122
Black	6.9	36.2	53.4	3.4	0.0	58
Caucasian	18.1	56.6	24.1	1.2	0.0	83
Mexican-American	5.5	66.7	27.8	N/A	0.0	18
Oriental	10.5	57.9	28.9	2.6	0.0	38
Other	7.7	50.0	38.5	3.8	0.0	26
All 1976	11.7	51.6	34.5	2.2	0.0	223
All 1975	12.5	42.5	41.4	2.2	1.5	273
All 1974	9.6	41.1	46.8	2.5	N/A	355
All 1973	9.0	39.7	47.2	2.7	1.4	443

TABLE 6 - Plans to Return to LACC
(in percents)

	Yes	No	Not sure	Total Respondents
Males	41.8	22.0	36.2	141
Females	55.8	16.0	28.2	163
Black	55.9	14.0	30.1	93
Caucasian	43.4	22.6	34.0	106
Mexican-American	47.8	30.4	21.7	23
Oriental	51.1	14.9	34.0	47
Other	48.6	17.1	34.3	35
All 1976	49.3	18.7	31.8	304
All 1975	53.7	12.0	34.3	341
All 1974	51.0	16.1	33.0	467
All 1973	48.0	16.0	36.0	586

TABLE 7 - How well Served by LACC

	Excellently	Adequately	Poorly	Total Respondents
Males	52.4	44.4	3.2	126
Females	50.3	49.0	0.6	157
Black	51.8	48.2	0.0	85
Caucasian	52.9	46.1	1.0	102
Mexican-American	33.3	58.3	8.3	24
Oriental	53.7	46.3	N/A	41
Other	54.8	38.7	6.5	31
All 1976	51.2	47.0	1.8	283
All 1975	49.4	48.4	2.3	312
All 1974	42.9	47.9	4.2	449
All 1973	50.2	47.2	2.7	566

TABLE 8 - Reasons for Withdrawal, by Ethnic Background (in percents)
Spring Semester

	Black				Caucasian				Mex-American				Oriental				Other			
	1976	1975	1974	1973	1976	1975	1974	1973	1976	1975	1974	1973	1976	1975	1974	1973	1976	1975	1974	1973
Armed Forces	0.7	1.9	3.6	2.4	2.0	0.8	1.1	0.8	N/A	0.0	0.0	2.4	1.4	0.0	4.2	4.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.3
Insuffi-funds	8.3	18.1	16.6	20.0	10.1	12.6	9.2	12.4	7.4	12.0	5.1	7.3	6.9	2.0	6.9	3.2	5.0	16.7	12.5	5.3
Personal illness or accident	11.1	13.3	8.6	10.3	10.1	15.8	14.1	12.2	11.1	8.0	20.5	17.1	8.3	8.2	5.6	5.4	5.0	12.5	10.9	10.7
Family illness or acci-dent	2.8	6.7	10.8	12.4	4.7	8.7	4.3	6.1	7.4	8.0	2.6	7.3	6.9	4.1	5.6	5.4	3.3	4.2	10.9	8.0
Transpor-tation	2.1	6.7	5.0	6.7	4.0	4.7	3.2	4.5	N/A	4.0	12.8	7.3	5.6	2.0	1.4	5.4	6.7	8.3	0.0	4.0
Full-time work	18.1	32.4	26.2	32.1	19.5	26.8	31.9	37.3	22.2	24.0	30.8	24.4	22.2	26.5	19.4	35.5	21.7	20.8	35.9	21.3
Another school	9.7	8.6	13.7	16.4	6.7	10.2	11.9	10.1	7.4	12.0	10.3	12.2	19.4	20.4	18.1	28.0	16.7	10.4	14.1	17.3
Schedule	3.5	2.9	4.3	4.9	2.7	3.2	5.4	4.5	7.4	20.0	14.4	20.7	4.2	8.2	1.4	11.8	8.3	2.1	6.3	4.0
Poor grades	3.5	3.8	5.8	6.1	2.0	4.7	2.7	3.2	7.4	0.0	5.1	4.9	2.8	0.0	6.9	7.5	8.3	6.3	4.7	2.7
Family moving	2.8	5.7	5.8	4.2	2.7	4.7	4.3	3.2	7.4	4.0	7.7	2.4	1.4	2.0	0.0	2.2	1.7	4.2	4.7	5.3
Job hours	8.3	20.0	16.6	17.0	14.1	11.0	14.6	15.0	N/A	4.0	14.4	9.8	8.3	16.3	11.1	12.9	1.7	14.6	15.6	13.3
No study time	12.5	11.4	10.1	12.7	8.1	6.3	15.7	18.2	N/A	4.0	5.1	4.9	8.3	10.2	20.8	12.9	10.6	8.3	10.9	10.2
Personal pro-blems	16.7	25.7	32.4	18.2	13.4	22.8	23.2	12.6	22.2	12.0	30.8	24.9	1.2	18.4	27.8	18.3	10.0	41.7	17.2	20.0
TOTAL #	144				149				27				72				60			

TABLE 8a - Reasons for Withdrawal, by Sex
(in percents)
Spring Semester

Reason	1976			1975			1974			1973		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Going into Armed Forces	2.9	1.2	1.9	0.6	1.1	0.9	3.3	0.8	2.0	3.6	0.3	1.9
Insufficient funds	13.0	11.2	12.0	16.0	11.0	13.3	13.9	8.3	11.0	14.6	13.1	13.9
Personal illness or accident	13.0	14.7	14.0	14.1	12.1	13.0	9.0	13.8	11.4	9.7	11.9	10.8
Family illness or accident	3.6	8.8	6.5	4.9	8.4	6.8	6.1	7.9	7.0	6.5	9.3	7.9
Transportation	2.9	7.6	5.5	6.8	4.2	5.4	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.9	5.8	5.3
Going to work full-time	33.3	25.9	29.2	28.8	26.2	27.4	29.4	28.0	28.7	37.5	28.2	32.9
Going to another school	17.4	15.3	16.2	9.2	13.1	11.3	13.5	13.4	13.4	18.5	16.0	17.2
Unhappy with schedule	9.4	3.5	6.2	4.3	5.2	4.8	6.9	3.9	5.4	6.2	4.8	5.5
Poor grades	5.8	5.3	5.5	4.3	3.2	3.7	4.9	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.7
Family moving away	2.9	4.7	3.9	5.5	3.7	4.5	2.9	5.9	4.4	3.2	3.9	3.5
Conflicting hours with job	15.9	10.6	13.0	16.0	13.1	14.4	17.6	12.2	14.8	17.5	11.9	14.7
Not enough time to study	10.9	15.9	13.6	8.6	8.4	8.5	13.1	13.8	13.4	14.9	13.5	14.2
Personal problems	21.0	21.7	21.4	23.9	25.7	24.9	22.9	29.5	26.3	21.4	25.6	23.5

TABLE 9 - Reasons for Withdrawal, Rank Order
Spring, 1976

Reason	Total	Male	Female	Black	Caucasian	Mexican American	Oriental	Other
Work full-time	1	1	2	1	1	1.5	1	1
Personal problem	2	2	1	2	3	3.5	3	2.5
Another school	3	3	4	5	7	7.5	2	2.5
Personal illness	4	5.5	5	4	4.5	5	5	8.5
No study time	5	7	3	3	6	---	5	4
Conflicting hours with job	6	4	7	6.5	2	---	5	13
Insufficient funds	7	5.5	6	6.5	4.5	7.5	7.5	8.5
Family illness or accident	8	10	8	10.5	8	7.5	7.5	10
Unhappy with schedule	9	8	12	8.5	10.5	1.5	10	5.5
Poor grades	10	9	10	8.5	12.5	3.5	11	5.5
Transportation problem	11	13	9	12	9	---	9	7
Family moving away	12	13	11	10.5	10.5	7.5	12.5	13
Armed Forces	13	13	13	13	12.5	---	12.5	13

TABLE 9a - Reasons for Withdrawal, Comparison of Rank Orders for Spring 1976, 1975, 1974, and 1973

Reason	'76	'75	'74	'73
Going to work full-time	1	1	1	1
Personal problem	2	2	2	2
Going to another school	3	6	4.5	3
Personal illness	4	5	7	1
Not enough time to study	5	7	4.5	5
Conflicting hours with job	6	3	3	4
Insufficient funds	7	4	7	6
Family illness or accident	8	8	8	8
Unhappy with schedule	9	10	9	9
Poor grades	10	12	10	11
Transportation problem	11	9	12	10
Family moving away	12	11	11	12
Armed Forces	13	13	13	13

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study examines the responses of the 1,682 students who withdrew during the Spring 1976, Spring 1975, Spring 1974, and Spring 1973 semesters and who completed the exit questionnaire.

(1) In comparing sex and ethnic background of the withdrawees with the total day student population for Spring 1976, about 68% of the withdrawees were of non-Caucasian background, compared with a non-Caucasian student body of about 79%. 55% of the withdrawees were female compared with a student body which is about 50% female.

(2) In the Spring 1976, of the males who withdrew, 34% were in their 1st semester while about 24% were in their 4th semester or later. Of the females who withdrew during the same period, about 34% were in their 1st semester while about 26% were in their 4th semester or later.

(3) About 47% of the withdrawees had not been employed during the Spring 1976 semester compared with a student body only one-third of which was unemployed. Approximately 28% of the withdrawees were employed full-time.

(4) About 36% of the withdrawees in the Spring 1976 semester indicated that they planned to transfer to a four-year college, with 30% saying they did not intend to transfer and 34% not sure. Corresponding figgures for the entire student body were 69%, 11%, and 19% respectively in 1972 which are consistent with a report, "Through the Open Door, A Study of Patterns and Performance by the California Postsecondary Education Commission," December 1975. This suggests that these withdrawees were generally not as certain about their future educational plans as other students.

(5) About 98% of the withdrawees felt that they were adequately or better served by the college with more than half of these rating the service excellent. About half (49.3%) of the withdrawees indicated that they expected to return to college.

(6) For all the last four years, the most often stated reason for withdrawal was going to work full-time, followed by a personal problem. Going to another school was the third most often stated reason for withdrawal in 1976. Poor grades has never ranked higher than 10th from the top (out of 13) in the last five years and in 1976 was 10th (out of 13).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS (continued)

(7) Analysis by sex showed some differences. In 1972 and 1973 more males stated (in percents) "going to work full-time," as a reason for withdrawal than females, but in 1974 and 1975 the differences in percents were not appreciable. In 1976 more males (33%) stated "going to work full-time," as a reason for withdrawal than females (26%). About 16% of the males and 11% of the females stated "conflicting job hours," as a reason for withdrawal in 1976.

* * * * * * * * * * *

L.A.C.C. COUNSELING CENTER, SPRING, 1973
STUDENT WITHDRAWAL FORM DATE_____

(Please complete and give to Counselor. Omit any question you do not care to answer)

NAME_____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Sex: M___ F ____ Semester at LACC: 1st__ 2nd__ 3rd___ 4th____ 5th _____

Ethnic background:

Black_____ Caucasian _____ Mexican American ___ Oriental ___ Other ___

Have you been employed this semester? Yes__ No__ If yes, how much time:

1/4 time_____ 1/2 time_____ 3/4 time _____ full-time_____

College major_____

Do you plan to transfer to a 4 year college? Yes___ No___ Not sure___

Approximate grade average to date: A__A-__ B+__ B__ B-__C+__C__C-__D+__D__F__

Do you plan to return to LACC? Yes____ No____ Not sure____

Please check one or more of the following reasons for your withdrawal.

____ going into Armed forces
____ insufficient funds
____ Personal illness or accident
____ family illness or accident
____ transportation problem
____ going to work full-time
(Have you found the job yet? Yes__ No__
____ going to another school
____ unhappy with schedule
____ poor grades
____ family moving away
____ conflicting hours with job
____ not enough time to study
____ personal problem, prefer not to explain
____ personal problem as follows:

_____

_____

Other (please describe)_____

_____

_____

How well did L.A. C.C. serve you? excellently ____ adequately ____ Poorly____

Please write any comment on the back of this sheet.

Counselor's signature_____

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

JUL 29 1977

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES